



CALPEEK

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Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

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CRP'S SEPT. 13-15 ANAHEIM CONVENTION HAS EVERYTHING EXCEPT CALIF. GOV. PETE WILSON. That's right folks. At this point, CA Gov. Pete Wilson is NOT scheduled to speak or even attend the CA Republican Party's Sept. 13-15 semi-annual convention at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel. Originally, he was penciled in to speak on the last day of the GOP meeting, but that's out for now...

...What's the reason? The OFFICIAL spin is that the governor wants to leave things "fluid" because the CA Legislature is scheduled to adjourn for the year on Sept. 13. That's assuming there aren't major problems in the Capitol. Given the controversial nature of REAPPORTIONMENT, which is THE most important legislation still pending, maybe the official spin has credibility...

...BUT given the relationship between Wilson and hardline conservatives, who now control the CRP, maybe it's best the governor remain in Sacramento. His budget, with new TAXES, won't go over big with many of the delegates attending the convention --- and if he signs AB 101, the so-called Gay Bill of Rights, his popularity with GOP hardliner could dip even lower...

...So who are the headliners at the CRP convention? U.S. Rep. Newt Gingrich(GA), the GOP House Whip, will address the CRP at the main 8 p.m. banquet Sept. 14. The Sept. 14 main luncheon speaker will be U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm(TX), who chairs the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee. Gramm may not be aware that he could be walking into a very hostile situation, because the RSCC is supporting Wilson-appointed U.S. Sen. John Seymour over U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer in the 1992 GOP U.S. Senate primary. Dannemeyer is a favorite of GOP hardliners, while Seymour would have a tough time being elected DOG CATCHER with this group. Seymour is scheduled to address CRP delegates

at 9:15 a.m., Sept. 15 --- the last day...

...One of the convention's more interesting aspects will be a reapportionment workshop at 10 a.m., Sept. 14. That ought to be fairly interesting, given the CRP's stated policy of endorsing challengers to State lawmakers who might vote to override a potential veto by Gov. Wilson on the remapping bills. CALPEEK sources in Sacto say Demo Assembly Speaker Willie Brown may have already lined up enough GOP votes in the Assembly to override a veto. Stay tuned...

MORE VACATION TIME - CALPEEK will take off the week of Aug. 19, meaning there will be NO newsletter next week (Aug. 26). The next issue of CALPEEK will be dated Sept. 2, 1991. We'll still be in town if you need to reach CALPEEK...

BUSINESS INTERESTS GEARING UP FOR MEGA-BUCK HEALTH INSURANCE INITIATIVE FIGHT WITH CMA. It looks as though Calif. voters may face a November 1992 ballot measure dealing with the expensive and controversial issue of basic, low-cost HEALTH INSURANCE for about 5-6 million employees and their families. These CA workers are currently without any form of health insurance and are costing the medical establishment millions of dollars each year. It's one of the CRITICAL public policy issues that Gov. Pete Wilson has not had time to deal with because of the State's other problems...

...The measure under consideration is being drafted by the powerful CA Medical Assn. (CMA) and its allies (hospital associations and pharmaceutical companies). CALPEEK sources in Sacto say the language is still

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in draft form, being worked on by internal counsel. However, it is expected to go to the CMA's outside counsel in the near future — Steven Merksamer of the Nielsen, Merksamer law firm. From there it would go to the AG's office for title & summary on or about Sept. 23, if the final go ahead is given. CMA spokesperson Chuck McFadden was quoted a few days ago in the S.F. Chronicle as saying it was a done deal...

...If that's true, then two huge groups of SPECIAL INTERESTS, both of whom are close to Gov. Wilson, will be going to war with the CMA and its allies. The basis of opposition to the CMA proposal is that such a plan might cost Calif. businesses and taxpayers billions of dollars, depending on the wording of the measure...

...One opposition group is called Health Coalition '92. Members include the CA Restaurant Assn., the CA Hotel/Motel Assn., the CA Grocers Assn., Marriott Corp., Baker Square Restaurants, Pepsi and Western Growers. This coalition has hired The PBN Co. as its lead consultant. This is nearly the same group which defeated Prop. 95 (The Hunger & Homeless Initiative) in 1988. In addition, consultant Ken Khachigian, Sacto-based Benchmark Research and D.C.-based Voter Consumer Research are also part of the team...

...The other group is called The Consumer Health Insurance Coalition. There are 9-10 associations in this group, including the Amer. Council of Life Insurers, the Health Insurance Assn. of Amer. and the Assn. of CA Life Insurance Cos. Sacto consultant Richard Clausen and L.A. consultant Ben Goddard are the lead consultants for this group. Sources tell CALPEEK that this coalition would like to sit down with CMA to work out a compromise and thus avoid a bloody and costly initiative battle. But this doesn't appear likely UNLESS Gov. Wilson steps in...

...Is compromise possible? There are 3 bills in an Assembly conference committee, all dealing with low-cost health insurance, including one bill that deals with the touchy subject of medical cost containment. But time works AGAINST putting such a deal together that would satisfy the parties. The CA Legislature comes back today (8/19) and stays until adjournment on Sept. 13. That's less than a month. Stay tuned...

4 COUNCILMEMBERS TO FACE SAN DIEGO VOTERS.

Voters in the EVEN districts in Calif.'s second largest city go to the polls Sept. 17th in what up to this point has been a fairly routine and quiet election. But it is the FIRST TIME councilmembers from the 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th districts are seeking reelection under the relatively new DISTRICT election system. Four years ago, candidates ran in district primaries, but the RUNOFF (if one was needed) was held citywide. No more. Here is a brief update and report...

- 2nd District. This seat is currently occupied by 1st term incumbent Ron Roberts, who faces only one challenger - community activist Rich Grosch. Grosch is NOT given much of a shot at pulling an upset. This is an IMPORTANT campaign for Roberts because a poor showing could impact his long-range plans of running for mayor next year. Roberts has retained The Campaign Management & Strategy Group, who have full-time San Diego consultant John Waino on staff. Grosch has retained Bob Glaser of the La Jolla Group for assistance. No runoff in this winner-take-all contest...

- 4th District. 1st term incumbent Wes Pratt, the council's only Black member, has a rematch with George Stevens, who actually beat Pratt in the primary four years ago, but lost in the citywide runoff. However, CALPEEK should mention that in the runoff, Pratt carried the 4th. Pratt is favored, but this could be tight as Stevens is being very aggressive and has funding. Pratt has hired Stoorza, Ziegaus & Metzger to run his reelection. Again, no runoff required...

- 6th District. Incumbent Bruce Henderson faces Demo activist Valerie Stallings in a district that has some new turf — as a result of the redistricting battle of last year. However, it should not present any major problems to this conservative who led the successful recall effort that ousted Linda Bernhardt in April. Staffer Jim Sills is on leave to run the reelection campaign. Stallings has hired The Primacy Group to manage her uphill fight. Again, no runoff is necessary...

- 8th District. This seat now belongs to 1st term incumbent Bob Filner, another very ambitious politician who is said to be looking at higher office in 1992. He

has two opponents, but only Andrea Skorepa is considered serious. Skorepa is Hispanic and is a member of the city's Police Practices Commission. She's getting some support from San Diego Mayor Maureen O'Connor, but this isn't enough even though Filner's new district (again as a result of the re-districting battle from last year) has a 51% Latino population. Hispanic voter registration is only 30%. Filner is an excellent campaigner, has been walking his new district for months and the conventional wisdom is that while Hispanics may be angered at Filner for his part in the re-districting battle, the average district voter likes him. A runoff is possible for this seat. Stay tuned...

NEW POLLING DATA IN CA U.S. SENATE RACES.

Editor's note: There is some new polling data for both of Calif.'s U.S. Senate seats which are up next year. This info comes from The Polling Report. The data itself is a poll done by Political/Media Research for TV stations KPIX, KCRA, KGER and others from Aug. 1-4. Sample size is 826 likely voters...

SHORT-TERM, 2-YR SEAT

...Among likely GOP voters, appointed U.S. Sen. John Seymour still leads U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer by 27% to 12%, with a huge 61% undecided. This is NOT comforting news for Seymour. On the Demo side, former S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein leads CA Controller Gray Davis by a margin of 54% to 30%, with 16% undecided...

...In the 1-on-1 matches between these candidates, the data is no different than previous polls: both Feinstein and Davis are way ahead of both Seymour and Dannemeyer. DiFi holds a 43% to 30% lead over Seymour, while Davis beats Seymour by a 44% to 17% margin. Both Demos defeat Dannemeyer by slightly more --- at this point...

THE CRANSTON, 6-YR SEAT

...Among the Demos running for retiring U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston's seat, former CA Gov. Jerry Brown is still the frontrunner with 27%, followed by LG Leo McCarthy at 24%, U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer at 18% and U.S. Rep. Mel Levine at only 4%. About 27% are undecided, so Levine is not out of the running --- but this stealth candidate had

better get moving...

...On the GOP side, a huge 60% are undecided in the primary contest between U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell and TV commentator Bruce Herschensohn. Campbell has a slight lead of 21% to 19%. In the L.A. Times poll in May, Campbell held a 34% to 28% lead over Herschensohn, with 38% undecided...

...In 1-on-1 match-ups, Campbell AND Herschensohn are winners over both Jerry Brown and Mel Levine. But both Leo McCarthy and Barbara Boxer are able to hold the seat for the Demos...

BROWN FOR PRESIDENT

...This stuff about Jerry Brown running for president (instead of for the U.S. Senate) may be on the level. CALPEEK sources say the former governor is holding a Sept. 6 fundraiser at his home with the money going for Iowa and New Hampshire. How would the former CDP chair do against President Bush? Bush 60%, Brown 24%, with 16% undecided. Should Jerry run for the White House next year? Only 22% said YES, while 70% said NO and 8% were undecided. This research was all part of the same poll for KCRA and KPIX. Stay tuned...

1992 U.S. SENATE RACES: SOME ODDS & ENDS.

Editor's note: Lots of short takes for this week's column about the two U.S. Senate contests here in Calif...

- GAVIN WON'T RUN - Told you so. Former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, John Gavin, was just being polite when he met with those GOP congressmembers about 10 days ago in D.C. Sources told CALPEEK before that meeting that the former envoy had NO interest in running in next year's GOP primary for Alan Cranston's senate seat...

- ALLEN RUNNING AGAIN - No big deal, but college professor Bill Allen is officially in the GOP primary running against Seymour and U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer. Allen has an HQ at 590 Central Ave., Ste. K, Brea, CA 92621 (714)671-9787. He says he's hired David Warnick as his cmp. mgr. Warnick use to be U.S. Rep. Newt Gingrich's chief of staff. The big problem with Allen is that he's becoming a PERENNIAL candidate --- running every time there's an election. He

ran in the 1986 GOP U.S. Senate primary (and he quit campaigning 2 weeks before the election to endorse Bruce Herschensohn); he briefly explored running for Lt. Governor last year; and toward the end of the 1990 campaign got 24,000 votes as a GOP write-in candidate for governor. Because he's a hardline conservative, his candidacy is more likely to hurt Dannemeyer --- but most sources place his impact on the campaign at 0-to-1 on a 10-point scale. So unless there is some earthshaking development involving the professor, this may be the only Allen story you'll see in CALPEEK...

• NEED TO REACH A SENATE CANDIDATE?

Here are the current phone numbers for the major Democratic and Republican candidates.

REPUBLICANS

U.S. Sen. John Seymour	(714)434-1992
U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell	(415)969-2270
U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer	(714)870-1757
Bruce Herschensohn	(916)448-3853

DEMOCRATS

Dianne Feinstein	(415)433-1333
U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer	(415)771-3700
U.S. Rep. Mel Levine	(213)289-8622
Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy	(213)642-1889
Controller Gray Davis	(213)478-6602
Jerry Brown	(415)928-3764

S.F. MAYOR'S RACE: WAR OF 4-LETTER WORDS.

As CALPEEK reported last week, S.F. County Sup. Angela Alioto is now in the race to try and unseat incumbent S.F. Mayor Art Agnos. To say that tempers are a little on the short side is an understatement. The day before her official announcement, the San Francisco Weekly (8/7/91) ran a story about this heated contest by staffer George Cothran. Here are the first two paragraphs:

Tomorrow morning, Supervisor Angela Alioto will announce she will enter the San Francisco mayor's race and turn a contest that was getting stale into a wide-open brawl.

Alioto's entrance prompted Richie Ross, Art Agnos' reelection campaign director, to flip the supervisor the verbal bird. "Fuck you, Angela. Fuck you," said a less-than thrilled Ross. (End quote)

...Other than those 4-letter words, which are used in the headline and again at the end of the story, it's a pretty straight forward political article. For example, Ross says in the story that after thinking about Angela's entry into the race, he feels she would be easy to beat in a run-off because "she is not mayoral material." Too bad Angela didn't reply with a salute of her own, vaffanculo, which translates about the same as Richie's comment, only in Italian. Stay tuned...

HERNANDEZ WINS SPECIAL FOR L.A. COUNCIL.

Businessman Mike Hernandez won last week's special election to replace Gloria Molina on the L.A. City Council. Hernandez was the heavy favorite to defeat Chinatown attorney Sharon Mee Yung Lowe --- and he did with 64.5% of the vote. He also outspent Lowe 5-to-1 with a massive \$200,000 war chest...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

• Keith Cunningham and Julie Horan have been promoted to AEs at Stoorza, Ziehaus & Metzger's Sacto office...

• Msgr. E. James Petersen is the new Exec. Director of the CA Catholic Conf. in Sacto. He replaces The Rev. William J. Wood...

• A sad note: John Urmston, well-liked VP of public affairs for B of A in S.F., died Aug. 8 from aids. He was 44 and had worked for B of A about 12 years. R.I.P...

• Kevin Cooper has signed on as a field operative for the U.S. Senate campaign of U.S. Rep. Mel Levine (D-L.A.). Cooper worked for the AFL-CIO in D.C. prior to coming west...

• As of Sept. 1st it's back to school for PA exec. Kirk Hallahan, who resigned his vp of PA job with L.A.-based Coast Federal Bank to pursue a doctorate at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Hallahan will teach PR while at the university...